BBC
BE×BOY COMICS

夏、君が咲く。

NATU KIMI GA SAKU NATU KIMI GA SAKU NATU KIMI GA SAKU NATU KIMI GA SAKU NA

藤川桐子

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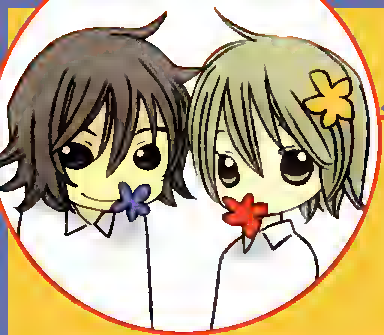
ISBN978-4-86263-222-7
C9979 ¥571E
9784862632227
定価：本体571円＋税
雑誌54761-39
1929979005719
リブレ出版

「ジブンも一人か…俺と一緒やな」たった一輪咲く新種の花のように孤独だった転校生の忍は、太陽みたいな同級生の雪人に恋をした。胸の痛む初めての切ない恋。甘く苛まれる忍に突然「花」が咲いた…!? 愛を語る花の奇跡を描く感動名作、謎解き編有。



Natsu, Kimi ga Saku

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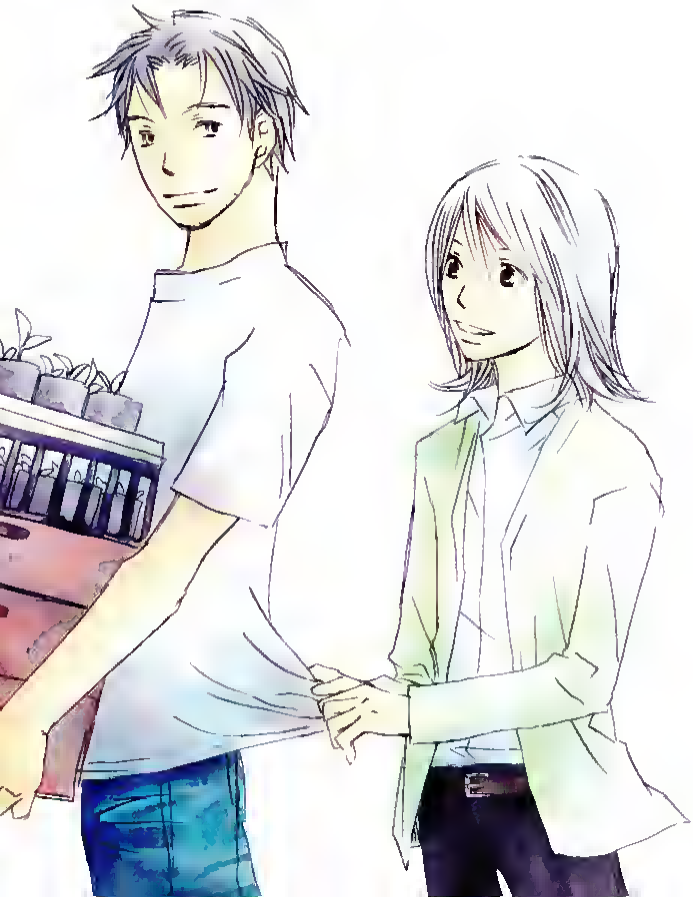

NATSU,
KIMI GA SAKU

TOUKO FUJIKAWA
藤川桐子

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POSTSCRIPT

Natsu, Kimi ga Saku

I GREW UP IN A TOWN DEEP DEEP WITHIN THE MOUNTAINS IN KANSAI
THE KIND OF TOWN THAT HAD MAYBE THREE OR FOUR KIDS AT ONCE IN THE ENTIRE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY CLASSMATES, AND SINCE MY PARENTS WORKED, EVEN WHEN I WENT HOME I WAS ALONE.
SO WHEN I WANTED TO PLAY I'D HEAD OVER TO THIS ONE PLACE, WHERE ALL THE GUY DID WAS TINKER WITH FLOWERS
POPS!
POPS!
OH? SHINOBU, IS SCHOOL ALREADY OUT?
HAVE ANY NEW FLOWERS BLOOMED?

ISN'T IT PRETTY?
IT WAS...
ONE DID THIS MORNING
YEAH
This way.
Over here.
You must be a genius
It's really pretty
I wonder if
A NEW SPECIES OF FLOWER THAT POPS BRED HIMSELF
IT HAD AN UNUSUAL COLOR, SORT OF RED AND SORT OF ORANGE.
NONE OF THE OTHER TREES BLOOMED?
JUST THIS ONE?
YEAH,
THIS IS THE ONLY ONE THAT MADE IT, UNFORTUNATELY.

YOU'RE
PRETTY, BUT YOU LOOK KINDA LONELY.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE, HUH...
HEY, HOW ABOUT SOME JUICE?
SURE!
MUSS
MUSS
JUST...
LIKE ME...

WHAT'S WITH THE GLOOMY FACE?
DID YOU GET INTO A FIGHT AT SCHOOL?
Here.
POP
AH?
...DON'T HAVE ANY...
MUTTER
I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS TO GET INTO FIGHTS WITH

THERE'S ONLY THIS ONE FLOWER.
I MEAN,
IT'S LIKE...
...IT'S LIKE...
Oh, right...
ONLY YOU AND MINA AND RINA ARE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NOW...
Minako Rinako (1st Grade)
IT'S THE SAME AS ME.
LOOK...
GULP

I'LL MAKE SOME MORE FOR YOU!
—I DON'T KNOW IF THEY'LL WORK OR NOT, BUT I'VE GOT SOME GOOD IDEAS
POPS SAID IT WITH A SMILE
Just leave it to me!
Really? Good luck!
...REALLY?
AS THE MOUNTAIN TREES CHANGED COLORS THAT AUTUMN
HE PASSED AWAY EVEN THOUGH HE WAS ONLY IN HIS LATE THIRTIES.

I'M OFF!
CLACK
I TOOK CUTTINGS OF THAT TREE, BUT I COULD NEVER GET ANY MORE TO GROW, AND I COULDN'T GET ANY SEEDS.
AND AS FOR THE ORIGINAL TREE THAT BLOOMED IT HASN'T BLOOMED ONCE SINCE THEN——
BANG
BANG
AND IT, AND THE TOWN, WOUND UP AT THE BOTTOM OF A NEW DAM.

EVEN THOUGH POPS SAID THAT HE HAD SOME GOOD IDEAS TO GROW MORE,
IN THE END, IT DIDN'T HAPPEN.
HMPH...
WHAT COLOR WAS THAT FLOWER AGAIN...?
NOT THIS RED,
Let's see
OR THIS FADED ORANGE...
SHINOBU, LOOK OUT!
EH?

TO
YU
YUKI-HITO...
SHINO-BU~
LOOKING AFTER THE FLOWERS IS ALL WELL AND GOOD, BUT DON'T SPACE OUT SO MUCH!
THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A DIRECT HIT!
Hehe
YOU'RE RIGHT.
OH!
THANKS, YUKI...

AFTER THE TOWN WAS FLOODED BY THE DAM,
WE LEFT AND I ENTERED SCHOOL IN THIS TOWN.
S— SORRY!
GET YOUR FOOT OFF IT, YOU IDIOT!
AH!
Umm
BUT, SINCE I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ALONE, IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS
SINCE BACK IN MY OLD TOWN, THE ONLY OTHER STUDENTS WERE TWO GIRLS MUCH YOUNGER THAN ME,
IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME—

IT FEELS LIKE SPRING.
YOU GUYS ARE EARLY, TOO.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT...
THINGS BLOOM EARLIER HERE THAN ON THE MOUNTAIN.
It's colder up there, so it takes longer...
YADA SHINOBU.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
OH! LOOKING AFTER THE FLOWERS?
...
That's great
UM...
YEAH?
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU NEED,
MISTER?
=MISTER?!
FWIP
—WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS?
YEAH.
I'M KAIZUKA YUKIHITO.
I SIT TWO SEATS OVER FROM YOU.

*Translator's Note: Kansai accents are often associated with thugs and gangsters. It's not something that translates well, so you can't actually tell the difference in English, though

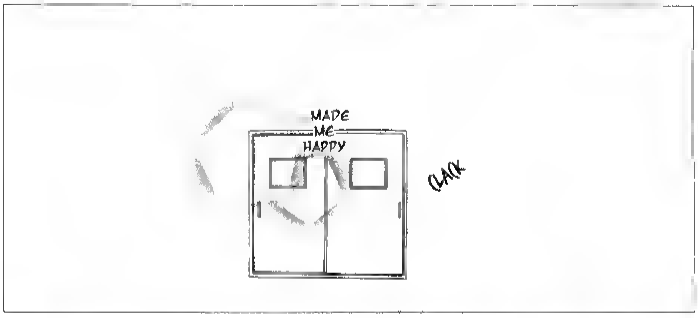
I'M NOT SURE WHEN...

...HE TURNED INTO MY FIRST CRUSH

SHINOBU,
LET'S HEAD OUT
WHO-EVER'S ON DUTY,
PLEASE COME TO THE STAFF ROOM
On Duty
HEY
WHOEVER'S ON DUTY
THAT'S YOU
COME WITH ME SHINOBU?
EH?
JUST COME BACK WHEN YOU'RE DONE
I STILL NEED TO FINISH GETTING MY STUFF TOGETHER TO TAKE HOME

...
SO YOU SHOULD COME TOO
THEN I'LL CARRY THEM FOR YOU
YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR TEXTBOOKS HERE, YOU KNOW
Dummy
THEN HOW WOULD I DO MY HOME-WORK?
N-n
SURE,
LET'S GO

I CAN'T REALLY SAY WHY...
Now, now
NO NEED TO GET EMBARRASSED
OF COURSE NOT!
WHAT?!
SO, ARE YOU AFRAID OF THE STAFF ROOM, YUKIHITO?
It's heavy!
Here you go
FLIP
...BUT HIM GOING SO FAR AS TO CARRY MY BAG SO I'D COME WITH HIM...
clack
IT JUST


MADE
ME
HAPPY
CLACK

WHOA!
IT'S
SO NICE
HERE!

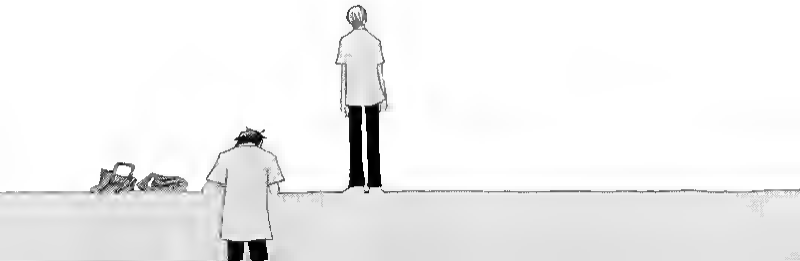
THAT FLOWER...
HM?
THE COLOURING LOOKS SIMILAR TO THIS OTHER FLOWER I'VE SEEN...
Haha
YOU SAY THAT EVERY TIME WE COME HERE.
SO WHAT?
YEAH
THE ONE THAT FLOWER GUY YOU KNEW CULTIVATED?
WHEN THAT TREE AND THE TOWN WERE BURIED UNDER THE DAM, IT ALMOST FELT LIKE HE'D DIED A SECOND TIME...
I WONDER WHAT THOSE 'GOOD IDEAS' OF HIS WERE...

THE ONE I LIKE IS YUKIHITO...

I DID.

MOST LIKELY...

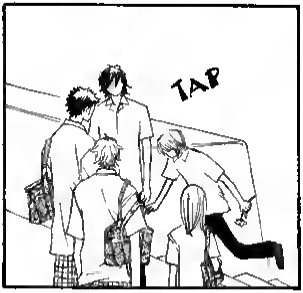
...SINCE THE MOMENT WE MET...



HEEEY!
THAT YOU, YUKI?
Hey!!
ICCHI! SHIOMIN! MOCHIDA!
THEY'RE FRIENDS WHO GO TO A DIFFERENT SCHOOL.
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK
'KAY
Yeah! How've you been?
It's been a while, you guys!
SPLASH

RIGHT.

Is that all you think about? Man
HEY, YUKI.
THERE'S GOING TO BE A MIXER WITH THE MATSUJO GIRLS' SCHOOL NEXT SUNDAY. YOU IN?
THAT'S RIGHT—


TAP

REALLY?
C'mon!
YOU CAN HANG OUT WITH US THERE, TOO

I'M GONNA GO
WHAT?
IF I DON'T GET THIS FLOWER IN WATER QUICK, IT'LL START TO WITHER.
YEAH? OKAY, I'LL GO WITH YOU...
Whoa, that's a Kansai accent
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THEM IN A WHILE, RIGHT?
TAKE YOUR TIME AND CATCH UP.

THANKS FOR CARRYING MY BAG.
SEEYA TOMORROW.
"WHY SHOULD I GO TO SOME STUPID MIXER? DON'T GO, YUKI."
I ALMOST—
—LET THOSE WORDS SLIP
THAT WAS CLOSE.
SPLASH

WHAT...?
DID I GET A RASH...?
THROB
OW!
SPLISH
SPLISH
YUKIHITO HAS A BUNCH MORE FRIENDS THAN ME.

MY MIND'S ALL JUMBLED UP
BUT
WHAT NOW?
I THINK
I'M GOING TO START CRYING
CRAP
I DON'T WANT HIM TO
I LIKE HIM
WHAT,
A WHOLE FUNCH
NOW HE NEEDS A GIRLFRIEND, TOO? THAT DUMMY
SQUISH
FOR ME
SPLASH
THERE'S ONLY ONE YUKIHITO.

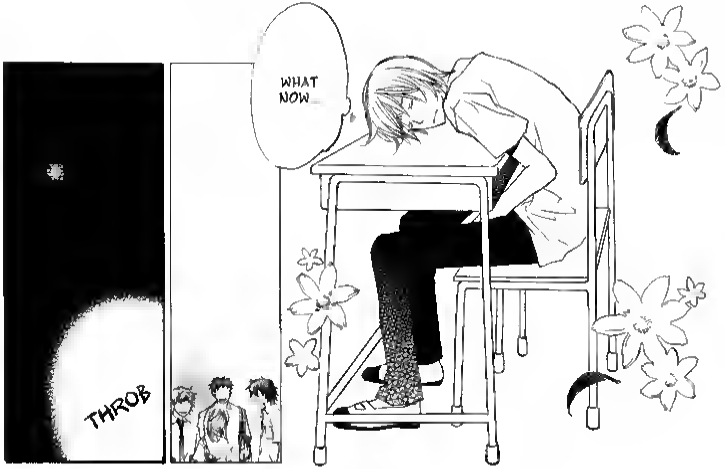
Natsu

Kimi

ga

Saku

DING
DING
"SO, IN THE END, DID YOU DECIDE TO GO TO THE MIXER?"
DONG
DONG
chatter
chatter
I tried to ask a bunch of times this morning, but couldn't get it out
kyaa!
kyaa!



"THERE'S GOING TO BE A MIXER WITH THE MATSUJO GIRLS' SCHOOL NEXT SUNDAY YOU IN?"

A MEMO-RIAL...
NEXT SUNDAY?
SO WHAT'S UP?
YEAH
SORRY, I'VE GOT TO ATTEND A MEMO-RIAL SER-VICE.
WHAT A RELIEF..
NO, IT'S NOTHING...
OW!

PROBABLY SOME BUG BITE SINCE YOU'RE ALWAYS DIGGING AROUND IN THE FLOWER BEDS
Hmm.
IT'S A LITTLE RED
YEAH, MAYBE
WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S NOTHING,
JUST MY NECK'S BEEN HURTING SINCE YESTERDAY
?
HERE
ANTI-ITCH CREAM?
WHERE'D YOU GET THIS FROM?
I CAN'T STAND THAT ITCHY FEELING SO I CARRY IT WITH ME ALL SUMMER LONG
That bleed-y feeling when your skin starts to swell up!
Ough, it's horrible! I'm scratchy and just plain miserable.
You get hung up on the weirdest things.
I STARTED CARRYING IT AROUND A LONG TIME AGO
IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, OLD FRIENDS WHO KNEW ABOUT IT USED ME AS THEIR PERSONAL PHARMACY
I got bit by a mosquito! Gimme the cream!
Yukie hito!
Me too!
Go to the infirmary and get your own! Leave me alone!

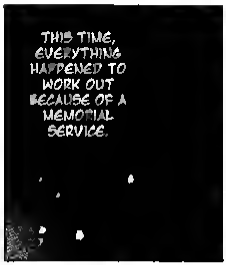
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY CLOSE FRIENDS AS A KID, AND YOU'RE PRETTY MUCH MY ONLY FRIEND NOW.
YEAH, I GUESS IT WOULD
I ENVY YOU
IT COST ME A FORTUNE IN MEDICINE.
IT DOES?
SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF FUN.
Yeah?

YEAH,
IT SEEMS LIKE IT'D BE NICE
I...
WHAT'S THE NAME OF THAT TOWN YOU USED TO LIVE IN, SHINOBU?
SWISH
SWISH
THE TOWN?
YEAH.

SHIGURE VILLAGE
'SHI' AS IN 'TIME' AND 'GURE' AS IN 'RAIN'
IT WAS AN ITTY BITTY TOWN
THE ENTIRE POPULATION PUT TOGETHER WAS SMALLER THAN THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS HERE
Oh yeah?
WHAT DID YOU DO FOR FUN?
FISHING!
BUT WHEN I TRIED TO USE A NET TO SCOOP UP THE FISH I'D CAUGHT, MY FOOT SLIPPED AND I FELL IN THE RIVER.
I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE.
Ahahahaha!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?! HOW LAME!
SWOOOOOOOSH
AAAAAAAGGHHHHH-HHH!!!!!!!!
SO,
WHY DO YOU WANNA KNOW ABOUT MY TOWN?
NO PARTICULAR REASON
HUH?
I JUST LIKE HEARING ABOUT YOU.
THE MORE STORIES I HEAR AND REMEMBER ABOUT YOU,
THE MORE IT FEELS LIKE WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE WE WERE KIDS.

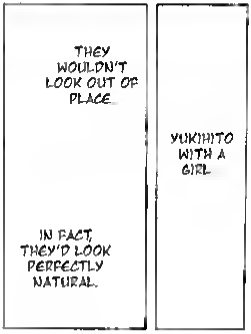
BADUMP
TIGHT?
OH NO...
BADUMP
BADUMP
OH NO!
BADUMP
SHINOBU?

WHAT'S WRONG?
AH...
MY BODY'S HEATING UP
DOKUMD
—SHINOBU?
LET'S HURRY AND GET TRASH DUTY OVER WITH
Um
I WANT TO GO TO THE BEACH AGAIN!
Er
MAYBE YOU'D RATHER NOT HAVE ME AS A CHILDHOOD FRIEND...
Wh-?
NO, I DO! I DO! I REALLY REALLY DO!


THIS TIME, EVERYTHING HAPPENED TO WORK OUT BECAUSE OF A MEMORIAL SERVICE.

WANT TO RELIVE THOSE CHILDHOOD MEMORIES BY GOING FISHING AND GETTING SWEPT AWAY BY THE CURRENT?
I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD YOU!

BUT WHAT ABOUT NEXT TIME?


THEY WOULDN'T LOOK OUT OF PLACE.
IN FACT, THEY'D LOOK PERFECTLY NATURAL.
YUKIHITO WITH A GIRL

WITH THE SAME HANDS THAT FLOODED MY BODY WITH HEAT...
HE COULD TOUCH SOMEONE WHO ISN'T ME...
HEY, THE REDNESS ON YOUR NECK IS SPREADING
HUH?
HAVE YOU BEEN PICKING AT IT?
YOU SHOULDN'T SCRATCH IT TOO MUCH

HM?
TOUCH-ING SOME-ONE OTHER THAN ME?
YU-
YUKIHITO
THIS HAND
NO,
I
I COULDN'T STAND IT!
I LIKE YOU!

BY 'LIKE', DO YOU MEAN...
...HUH...?
WHAT?
J—
JUST KIDDING! SORRY, YUKIHITO!
YEAH, THAT WAS A REALLY BAD JOKE!
SW
ACK
I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO.
I'M GONNA GO AHEAD AND LEAVE
Take the trash can back, will you?
I'M SO STUPID

NOW WHAT DO I DO?
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FACE YUKIHITO EVER AGAIN?
THAT WASN'T WHAT I MEANT TO SAY!
IF THINGS STAY LIKE THIS...

JUST LIKE I WAS BACK IN SHIGURE VILLAGE.
I'LL BE ALONE AGAIN,
...AND I CAN'T TALK TO YUKIHITO ANYMORE.
AH...
HAVE YOU BEEN PICKING AT IT?

MY NECK
FEELS HOT
...
YADA
YADA SHINO-RI...?
ABSENT AGAIN?

THIS IS THE THIRD DAY IN A ROW
KAIZUKA.
PLEASE STOP BY THE TEACHERS' LOUNGE DURING THE BREAK
KAIZUKA
THERE YOU ARE.

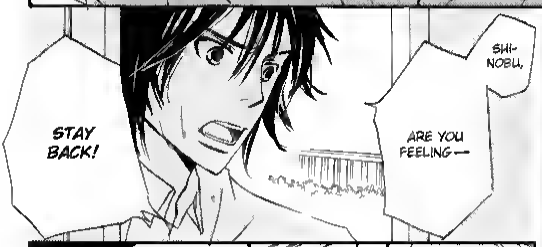
YOU WANTED ME?
YEAH, YOU AND YADA ARE PRETTY CLOSE, RIGHT?
DO YOU KNOW WHY HE'S BEEN OUT?
I'VE CALLED HIS HOUSE TO SEE IF MAYBE HE CAUGHT THE COLD BUT NO ONE ANSWERED
I'M RUNNING LOW ON OPTIONS HERE...
MORE ON THAT STORY LATER
ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT REPORTS
OUTBREAKS OF A MYSTERIOUS ILLNESS WERE DISCOVERED EARLIER THIS WEEK IN THE HEART OF THE KANSAI DISTRICT
?
ARE YOU LISTENING, KAIZUKA?
"WHAT'S THE NAME..."
AFTER SOME INVESTIGATION, OFFICIALS DETERMINED THAT VICTIMS OF THIS UNUSUAL DISEASE...
...HAD ALL AT SOME TIME LIVED IN THE SHIGURE VILLAGE OF XX PREFECTURE
"...OF THAT TOWN YOU USED TO LIVE IN, SHINOFU?"

"THE TOWN"
"SHIGURE VILLAGE"
DUE TO THE POTENTIALLY CONTAGIOUS NATURE OF THE DISEASE
PERSONS WHO HAVE FALLEN ILL OR WHO ARE AT RISK OF FALLING ILL...
...ARE ASKED TO HEAD IMMEDIATELY TO THE NEAREST LARGE HOSPITAL
CONTAGIOUS...
I SEE
THAT MUST BE WHY MOM AND DAD...
...HAVEN'T BEEN HOME SINCE YESTERDAY

THEY WERE PROBABLY TAKEN FROM WORK,
AND PUT INTO QUARANTINE
IF THAT'S THE CASE,
IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE SOMEONE COMES FOR ME..
I BET THIS IS THE "MYSTERIOUS ILLNESS" THAT THE MEDIA'S ALL WORKED UP ABOUT.
I'M A LITTLE SCARED TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE, SO I'VE AVOIDED LOOKING IN ANY MIRRORS
IT PROBABLY LOOKS DISGUSTING
I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO SEE ME LIKE THIS.
JUDGING BY THE FEEL... THIS IS PROBABLY A FLOWER?

OH, RIGHT...
...HA?
STEP
STEP
THEN I'LL HAVE A VALID REASON NOT TO GO TO SCHOOL...
DING DONG
IF I'M QUARANTINED FOR THIS...
THEY MUST BE HERE TO TAKE ME AWAY...
...AND I WON'T HAVE TO FACE YUKIHITO.
CLICK
YES?

PANT
PANT


STAY BACK!
SHI-NOBU, ARE YOU FEELING—

I'VE BEEN TOO AFRAID TO TAKE A PROPER LOOK, BUT THERE'S A FLOWER THERE, RIGHT?
AS YOU CAN SEE I'M ALREADY ILL
YOU KNOW ABOUT THE OUTBREAK?

SHINOB—
GRAB
EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU YADA SHINOBU?
AS YOU MAY HAVE HEARD ON THE NEWS, FORMER CITIZENS OF SHIGURE VILLAGE HAVE RECENTLY EXHIBITED UNUSUAL SYMPTOMS SIMILAR TO THE FLOWER BLOOMING ON YOUR NECK.
UNTIL WE KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS PHENOMENON, WE ASK THAT YOU COME WITH US TO QUARANTINE.
I'LL GO..
PLEASE, SIR, STEP OUTSIDE YOU DON'T WANT TO RISK INFECTION
HEY
WHAT ARE YOU..!!
slap
GRAB
STEP STEP STEP STEP

YOU SEE,
I COULD HAVE IT, TOO.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO QUARANTINE SHINOBU,
THEN YOU'D BETTER TAKE ME AS WELL!
RESTRICTED AREA
ISOLATION ROOM

SHI-NOBU?
DOES IT HURT?
HAVING THAT...
SHAKE
SHAKE
UM!
ARE YOU FEELING FEVERISH?
DO YOU HAVE A HEADACHE? A STOMACH ACHE? FEEL NAUSEOUS?
ZOOM
NO, I FEEL FINE!
THIS?
NO IT'S FINE

WHY...
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO BE SO NICE?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME SO MUCH
OR ELSE I
Whew
—OKAY
THAT'S GOOD
I'LL...
I'LL START THINKING THAT YOU LIKE ME, TOO.
SHINOBU...

DIDN'T YOU THINK IT WAS STRANGE—
THAT YOU DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY FRIENDS BESIDES ME?
...
WELL, MY KANSAI ACCENT SCARES PEOPLE
...IT REALLY DOESN'T
IT WAS MY FAULT! I PURPOSELY KEPT YOU AWAY FROM ANYONE WHO TRIED TO GET CLOSER TO YOU!
I DIDN'T WANT YOU PAYING ATTENTION TO ANYONE OTHER THAN ME!
WHAT—?
AT FIRST, I AP-PROACHED YOU BE-CAUSE IT SEEMED LIKE YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS.
BUT SLOWLY I JUST—
I STARTED WANTING TO KEEP YOU TO MYSELF
BUT—

YOU MADE THAT FACE!
WHEN I SAID I LIKED YOU, YOU MADE A FACE LIKE YOU WANTED A WAY OUT OF THE SITUATION!
THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE—!
YOU SAID I WAS YOUR FIRST FRIEND SO I THOUGHT...
I WAS WORRIED THAT MAYBE YOU WERE CONFUSING FRIEND-SHIP FOR LOVE...
WHAT KIND OF CLUELESS ADOLESCENT DO YOU TAKE ME FOR?! WHO WOULD CONFUSE BEING FRIENDS WITH BEING—
I SHOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT THAT
I'M SORRY
IN
I JUST...
...REALLY, REALLY LIKE YOU, SHINOBU.

WAIT
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
YUKI-HITO...
Doing?
HAVING SEX WITH YOU
ARE YOU CRAZY?!
WE CAN'T UNTIL WE KNOW IT'S SAFE...
WE'LL CATCH THE SAME THING FOR SURE!
OW!
SNAP
THIS MIGHT HURT A BIT
SORRY,

YUKIHITO?
СНЕМ

IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME GETTING INFECTED, THIS PROBABLY SEALED MY FATE
SPIT IT OUT! SPIT IT OUT RIGHT NOW!!
I know you were stupid, but I didn't think you were this stupid!!
You idiot!!
MUNCH
MUNCH
YOU DUMMY!
BUT, YOU KNOW, I KIND OF LIKE THE IDEA OF GIVING BLOOM TO A MATCHING FLOWER.
A DISEASE WON'T STOP MY FEELINGS FOR YOU
SO LET'S KEEP GOING?

I REALISED...
...WHEN YUKIHITO PULLED THE FLOWER FROM MY NECK
STUPID...
...SUIT YOURSELF...
IT WAS THE SAME ONE
THE NEW FLOWER SPECIES POPS BRED HIMSELF
SORT OF RED AND SORT OF ORANGE...

WAIT, NOT SO FA—!
Y—YUKI-HITO!
AH!
SHINO-BU.
THAT FLOWER,
IT WAS THE ONE YOU ALWAYS TALKED ABOUT, WASN'T IT?

IT WAS BEAUTIFUL
I'M SORRY FOR EATING IT
tremble
tremble
IT HASN'T CHANGED
IT'S JUST AS BEAUTIFUL AS IT WAS BACK THEN.
THE LAST TIME I SAW THAT FLOWER, BEFORE IT DISAPPEARED BETWEEN YUKIHITO'S LIPS, WAS TEN YEARS AGO
THAT'S RIGHT...
AH -
AH!
AAAHH!

...ADAPTED TO BE ABLE TO BLOOM FROM THE HUMAN BODY
...AND OVER THE YEARS...
...ENTERED THE BODIES OF THE VILLAGE'S CITIZENS...
THE FLOWER THAT NEVER BLOSSOMED ANYWHERE BUT IN SHIGURE VILLAGE
IT BORE NO SEEDS, AND NONE OF THE CUTTINGS WOULD GROW...
NH
SHINOBU
SHINOBU OPEN YOUR EYES
SHINOBU

YUKIHITO...
IT'S LONELY...
...BEING THE ONLY ONE.

I'M SURE THAT FLOWER...

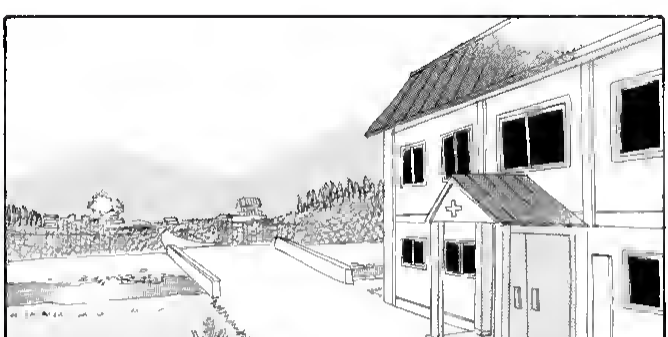
...FELT THE SAME WAY I DID
KAIZUKA!
YADA!!

I'M JUST GUESSING...
SO THEY LET US GO HOME.
With a stipulation that we return for regular check-ups
BUT THE DISEASE WAS FOUND TO BE NONCONTAGIOUS, AND EVERYONE IN QUARANTINE WAS DEEMED PERFECTLY HEALTHY BARRING THE FLOWER PHENOMENON
WHAT?!
OH, UM, I ATE IT
WHERE'S YOUR FLOWER, MR. YADA?
STUNNED
AFTER THAT, YUKIHITO AND I SPENT A FEW DAYS IN ISOLATION
YEAH, SORRY ABOUT THAT
I'M SORRY SENSEI!
ARE YOU GUYS ALL RIGHT NOW?! I WAS WORRIED SICK!
WELL, WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU?
WILL YOU BLOOM AGAIN?
OH, I SEE
GULP
BUT YOU COULD PROBABLY ONLY CATCH THE DISEASE FROM THE TREE THAT GREW IN OUR TOWN
SORRY, I DON'T THINK IT'LL BLOOM ANY MORE
YOU DON'T?
NOPE
YEAH
I WOULDN'T MIND SEEING THAT FLOWER AGAIN
It was really pretty
ME?

KISS
I'M A LITTLE SAD I WON'T SEE THAT FLOWER AGAIN...
...I DON'T FEEL ALONE ANY MORE
BE-CAUSE
AS LONG AS I'M WITH YOU, IT WON'T BLOOM
...BUT I WON'T TRADE YUKIHITO FOR ANYTHING
What do you mean?
Not tell-ing.

Mentou Kimi ga Suku / End

The Language
of Flowers



SORRY FOR HAVING YOU BRING THEM ALL THE TIME.
HERE YOU ARE
OH, KAZUSHI

THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL
MY OLD MAN IS HAPPY TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE DOCTOR
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT

HERE'S THE DAILY DELIVERY FROM NISHIMORI FARMS

WASN'T YOUR CHECK-UP TODAY SUPPOSED TO START AT TWO?!
OH MY, MIYA-ZONO!
DUH
JUST HEAD TO THE DOCTOR!
I'M SORRY
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO BRINGS
THE FLOWERS FOR THE WAITING ROOM AND PATIENT ROOMS?
smile

SHINYA.
KAZUSHI
HEHE
YOU DON'T HAVE TO STOP BY EVERY DAY.
I JUST LIKE YOUR FLOWERS, KAZUSHI.
MIYAZONO SHINYA, 17
TWO DAYS AFTER I FIRST MET HIM AT THE HOSPITAL, I SAW HIM THERE AGAIN.
EVER SINCE THEN, WE'VE BEEN MEETING UP.
HE HAD A WEAK CONSTITUTION BY NATURE, AND HAD FALLEN ILL WITH PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.
HE HAD COME BACK TO HIS MOM'S HOMETOWN TO RECUPERATE IN THE FRESH AIR.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
FLOWERS ARE THE SAME EVERYWHERE

IT FEELS LIKE THEY'RE LOVED.
THEY ALL SEEM HAPPY.
YOUR FLOWERS ARE REALLY BEAUTIFUL, KAZUSHI.
WHETHER THEY TURN OUT GOOD OR BAD DEPENDS ON THE FEELINGS OF THE PERSON WHO CULTIVATES THEM.
THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL.
Hmm...
...IF LOVE ALONE IS ENOUGH TO MAKE THEM BLOOM, THEN THIS GUY'S THE ODD ONE OUT FOR NOT BLOOMING ALREADY.
EH?
THIS ONE.
YEAH
I REALLY DO LIKE THEM.

A NEW VARIETY,
THOUGH I WISH IT WOULD BLOOM ALREADY
WHAT IS IT...?
AND HERE I SMOTHERED IT IN LOVE. IT'S A COLD ONE
ARE YOU ACTUALLY THAT GOOD?!
DO YOU HAVE TO BE SO SKEPTICAL?
GLITTER
...!
YOU...
MADE THIS, KAZUSHI?
YEP.

COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
BUT IT REALLY IS AMAZ..
HEY! SHINYA!
COUGH
COUGH
HAS IT PASSED?
YES
I'M SORRY, AS ALWAYS.
COUGH

NAH,
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE SORRY, FOR GETTING YOU WORKED UP.
NEW VARIETIES... TAKE THREE YEARS TO BLOOM AND TWENTY TO GET ON THE MARKET.
THAT'S WHAT MY GRANDFATHER TOLD ME.
I STARTED EXPERIMENTING, AND FIVE YEARS LATER...
THIS IS WHAT I GOT.
IT WON'T EVEN BLOOM.
...I'M SURE...
THAT I'M MISSING SOMETHING.
BUT IT'S NOT...
WATER OR FERTILIZER.

IT'S THE WILL TO BLOOM,
OR THE DESIRE
SOME-THING LIKE THAT
I THOUGHT I'D HAVE IT BY YEAR FIVE, BUT I'M NOT THERE YET AM I...?
NEW VARIETIES MUST BE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO CULTIVATE, RIGHT?
HAVE YOU TRIED GIVING IT A FEW STRANDS OF HAIR AS A CHARM?
BUT—
I KNOW!
SINCE YOUR HAIR CAN SYMBOLIZE THOSE FEELINGS—
SHING

WHOOPS...
I CUT A BIT TOO MUCH...
I DIDN'T ACTUALLY TAKE WHAT SHINYA SAID SERIOUSLY
BUT SHINYA LIKED MY FLOWERS, SO...
TRUDGE
TRUDGE
I THOUGHT THAT IT'D BE GREAT IF IT DID MAKE IT BLOOM,
AND I BURIED IT UNDER THE PLANT TO THE FAR LEFT, WHICH HAD BEEN AROUND FIVE YEARS
PLEASE! BLOOM! BLOOM FOR ME!
GRRRRR
DIG DIG DIG
SHINYA...
KEPT ON LOSING WEIGHT...
HIS CONDITION WASN'T IMPROVING
AND YET, EVERY DAY...

HE SMILED WHEN HE SAW MY FLOWERS
SPLSH
drip

THE RAIN'S REALLY COMING DOWN.
WANT AN ESCORT TO THE COMMUNITY CENTER?
IT'S NOT THAT FAR, I'LL BE FINE
BESIDES, AFTER LEARNING THAT FOLK SONG TODAY, I'LL BE DRINKING WITH FUKAYA.
I'LL BE HOME LATE, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME
SURE, SURE
DON'T DRINK TOO MUCH
Oh yeah?
SLOSH
The weather tomorrow will be...
CLACK
DID YOU FORGET THE SONG BOOK OR SOMETHING!?
WHAT?

...
SHINYA?
THEY
SAID...
HALF A
YEAR.

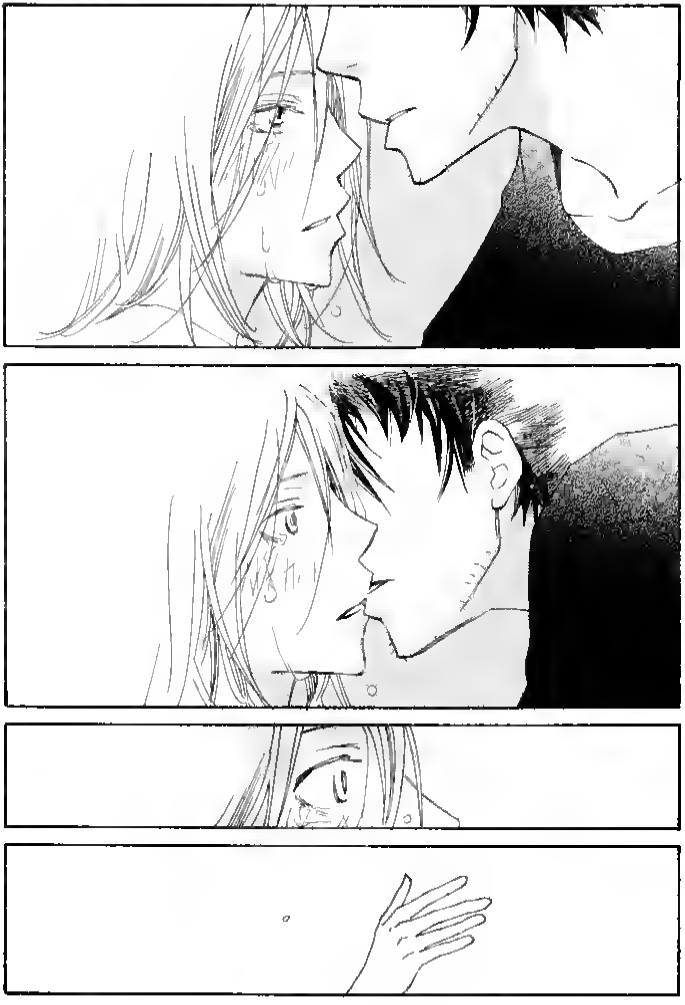
I'VE GOT...
WHAT?
HALF A YEAR.
LEFT TO LIVE—
splsh
sss
sssh

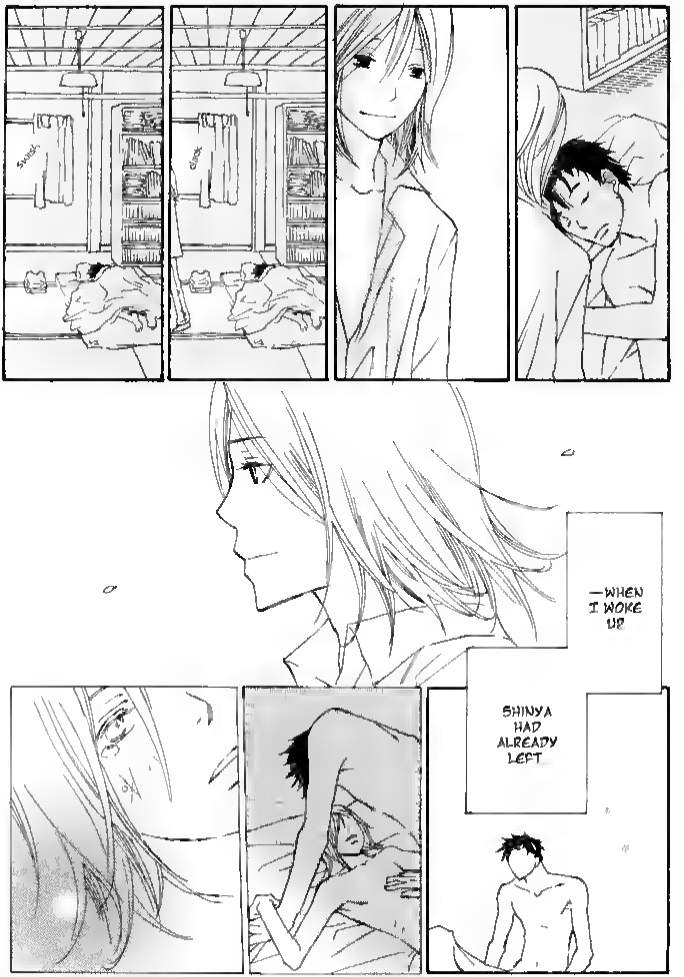
THANKS FOR THE CHANGE OF CLOTHES, KAZUSHI
SURE
HAVE YOU WARMED UP YET?
click
THANKS
SINCE YOU SAID YOU WERE STAYING AT YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S PLACE, I GAVE HER A CALL.
TODAY....

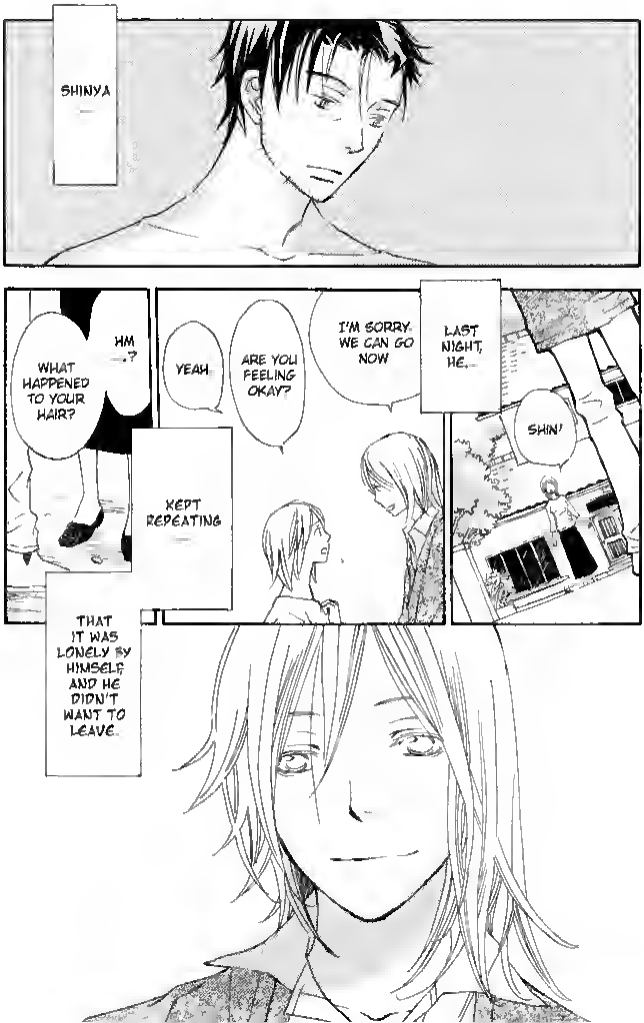
WHEN I WENT HOME, MY MOM HAD COME FROM TOKYO TO SEE ME.
SHE WAS IN SUCH A STATE, AND SHE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I'D COME IN WHEN SHE GAVE THE NEWS TO MY GRANDMA
IT TURNS OUT THEY HADN'T THOUGHT MY TUBERCULOSIS WAS SERIOUS, BUT THEY WERE WRONG
SEEMS I'M A RARE CASE.
shiver
THEY DIDN'T KNOW
'TILL JUST NOW
tremble
tremble

Grip
KAZUSHI
YEAH?
KAZUSHI
YEAH?

I'M SCARED ...
...!




—WHEN I WOKE UP
SHINYA HAD ALREADY LEFT

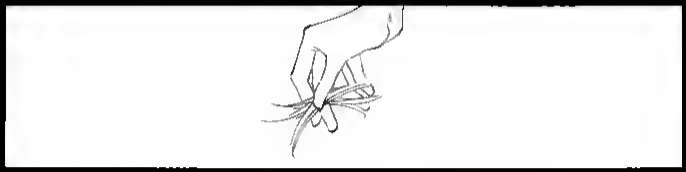

SHINYA
LAST NIGHT, HE...
I'M SORRY. WE CAN GO NOW
ARE YOU FEELING OKAY?
YEAH.
SHIN'
HM...?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HAIR?
KEPT REPEATING
THAT IT WAS LONELY BY HIMSELF AND HE DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE.

THAT DAY, SHINYA'S MOM TOOK HIM BACK TO TOKYO—
THREE MONTHS LATER, I RECEIVED WORD OF HIS PASSING
POPS!

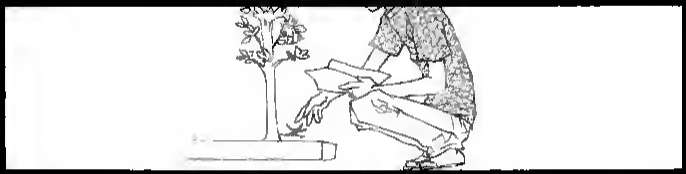
THE MORNING AFTER I HEARD OF HIS PASSING...
WHETHER OR NOT IT HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH MY HAIR, THE PLANT FARTHEST TO THE LEFT HAD BLOOMED.
YEAH, ONE DID THIS MORNING.
HAVE ANY NEW FLOWERS BLOOMED?
HAVE ANY OTHERS BLOOMED?
...NAH,
THIS IS THE ONLY ONE THAT MADE IT, UNFORTU-NATELY...
...IT REALLY IS LONELY BEING ALL BY YOUR-SELF.
IT'S THE SAME AS ME.
...THERE'S ONLY THIS ONE FLOWER
IT'S LIKE.

I'LL MAKE SOME MORE FOR YOU!
THEN, .
.I DON'T KNOW IF THEY'LL WORK OR NOT, BUT I'VE GOT SOME GOOD IDEAS
Nishimo
Farms

KAZUSHI.



I'M AFRAID TO DIE BY
MYSELF, ALL ALONE.



I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE.
I WANT TO BE WITH YOU.

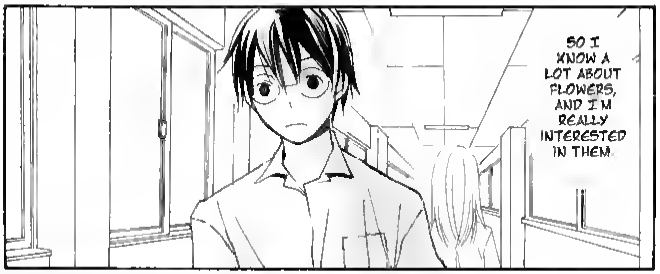
KAZUSHI.

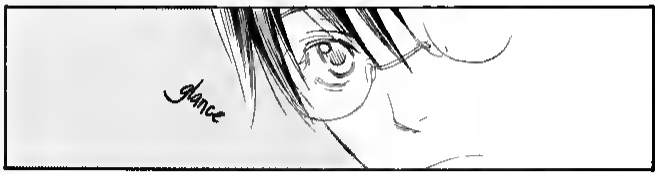
HE'S LIKE YOU, HE GETS LONELY SO EASILY.
...I'LL USE WHICHEVER HAIR IT NEEDS SO WILL YOU MAKE IT BLOOM FOR SHINOBU?
—SHINYA
MY FEELINGS MADE THIS TREE BLOOM, AND I'VE GIVEN IT SOME OF YOUR HAIR NOW, TOO. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE A SECOND ONE BLOOM, SOMEHOW.
...AND THEN HE WON'T BE LONELY ANYMORE, EITHER.
KA-ZUSHI—
I NEED YOUR HELP OVER HERE!
...AND FOR ANOTHER PERSON WHO EASILY GETS LONELY...
WELL...
I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT, RIGHT...?

cough
WHO KNOWS—
cough
cough
cough
DO YOU HAVE A COLD?
YOU'RE REALLY COUGHING UP A STORM.
cough
cough
cough
SURE

WE'LL SEE HOW IT TURNS OUT—
cough

MY FAMILY RUNS A FLORIST SHOP.





YADA SHINOSU, FROM THE CLASS NEXT TO MINE, BECAME A SCHOOL CELESRITY AFTER THE INCIDENT WITH SHIGURE VILLAGE
HE WAS DECLARED NON-CONTAGIOUS, BUT I'VE HEARD THAT HIS CLASS-MATES STILL KEEP A LITTLE DISTANCE FROM HIM
WELL, NO HELP-ING IT
PEOPLE ARE AFRAID OF THE UNKNOWN
AS THE SON OF A FLORIST
I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER WHAT KIND OF FLOWER BLOOMED ON HIM

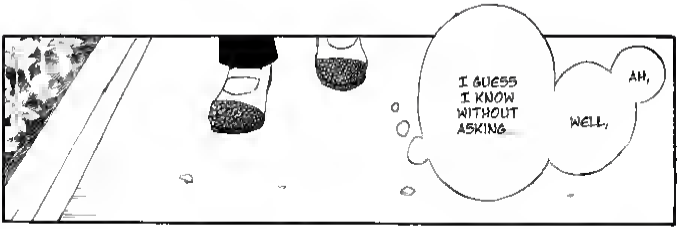
I WAS INCREDIBLY INTERESTED IN THAT.

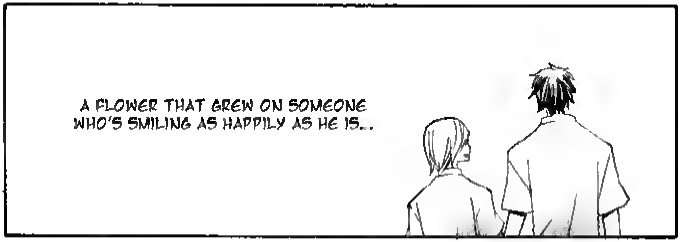
—YOU'RE HIM, RIGHT?
THE GUY FROM HANAICHI
EH?
YOU KNOW ABOUT MY FAMILY'S SHOP?
YEAH,
YOU'VE GOT RARE FLOWERS THERE ALL THE TIME
I TEND TO GLANCE IN WHEN I WALK HOME FROM SCHOOL

Looks like they're going to Hisamsson
YEAH I SEE
REALLY?
I ONLY TEND THE STORE, MYSELF...
YOU'RE IN A CLUB, RIGHT?
I'M NOT IN ANY...
Newspaper Club
REALLY?
YA..
YEAH?
YADA..
THE...
FLOWER.
THE FLOWER THAT BLOOMED ON YOU DURING THE SHIGURE VILLAGE INCIDENT...
WHAT COLOR WAS IT, WHAT SHAPE...?

I REALLY LIKE FLOWERS
I DON'T WANT TO OPEN UP AN OLD WOUND!
IT'S NO GOOD!
THEY'RE GREAT!
YEAH,
UGGH

YEAH!
LET'S GET GOING!
SORRY I'M LATE!
SHINOBU--!!
SURE
OH,
I'M HEADING HOME
GOT IT, NARU-SAWA
I'M NARUSAWA KAZUYA FROM CLASS 2.
OH!
HANAICHI GUY.
UM,



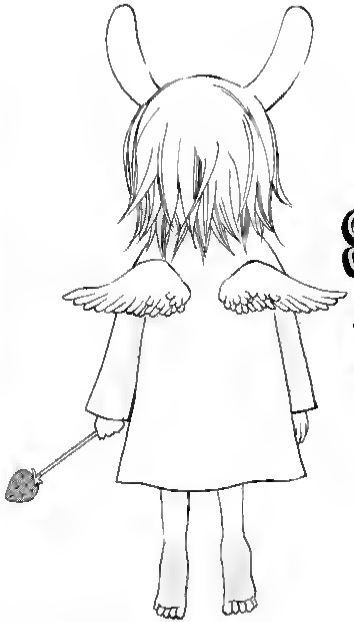


MUST HAVE BEEN BEAUTIFUL IN FULL BLOOM, I'M SURE.

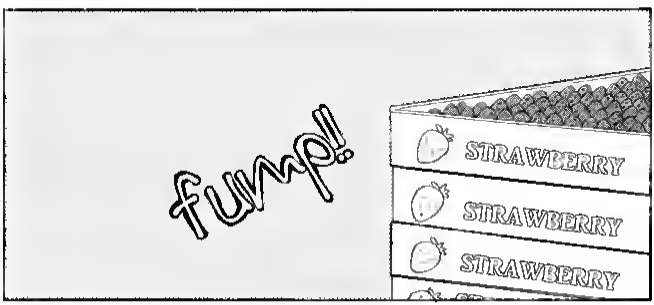
—OR, THAT'S WHAT I BELIEVED, AS A FLORIST.

Attends a flower arranging class once a week
Wants to inherit his father's business

CONCERTO



STRAW BERRY



STRAWBERRY
P.S. WE WERE OUT OF TOOTHPASTE, SO I BOUGHT SOME MORE

MOMS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO TELL THEIR KIDS TO HAVE STRAWBERRIES FOR DINNER
BUT...
STRAWBERRIES ARE SO CUTE AND ADORABLE AND I KNOW YOU LOVE THEM, SO I GOT STRAWBERRY FLAVOR."
THIS IS FOR KIDS!
I'm 19 already!
HOLD IT!

"DEAR MASAYA,
THE OLD LADY FROM THE FARM BROUGHT US SOME STRAWBERRIES, SO EAT THEM FOR DINNER
- MOM

BRUSH MY TEETH AND OFF TO BED...
NOW THEN...
flip
I DO LOVE STRAWBERRIES, SO I REALLY DON'T MIND
Strawberries are the best!
Yum Yum
STRAWBERRY

wiggle...
squeeze
!?
thanks!!
Eh..
MA...
MASAYA
I'M ICHIGO!
WHO ARE YOU?
POP
MILK

IF YOU PRESS TOO HARD AND OVERDO IT, YOU'LL HURT YOUR GUMS AND THEY'LL BECOME HYPERSENSITIVE
Be careful!
PLACE THE BRUSH ON THE BORDER OF YOUR TEETH AND GUMS AND MOVE IN SMALL CIRCLES
BRUSH
FIRST OF ALL, HOLD THE TOOTHBRUSH LIKE YOU'RE HOLDING A PENCIL
It's called a pen grip
GOING TO BRUSH!?
I'LL COACH YOU!
!?
LOOK AT THIS!
KIDDIE TOOTHPASTE
strawberry
I'M THAT GUY!
rub
.....
ANYWAY, WHO ARE YOU..?
DUMMY
DIDN'T I TELL YOU!?
I'M ICHIGO!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!!

HUH.....?
SO—
WHEN YOU PICKED UP THE BOTTLE, I JUST KNEW THAT YOU LOVED STRAWBERRIES.
I WAS SO HAPPY THAT I FLEW RIGHT OUT.
I THOUGHT WE COULD BE STRAWBERRY FANATIC FRIENDS—
TRUTH IS...
I... I ABSOLUTELY LOVE STRAWBERRIES.
Strawberry Jam
Strawberry Chocolate
Strawberry Ice Cake
Strawberry Cake
I HONESTLY THINK THAT THERE ISN'T ANYTHING ELSE AS DELICIOUS OR CUTE,
BUT ISN'T IT WEIRD FOR A GUY TO THINK LIKE THAT!?
And if I say we're friends, people will make fun of me...
!!
.....
strawberry fanatic friends!?
SWISH
SWISH
Feh
YOU AND I!?
yup!

I DON'T THINK ANYTHING'S AS GOOD AS A STRAWBERRY, EITHER!
glitter
glitter
glitter
Let's be best friends
ICHI-GO
MILK!
YOU'RE A MAN AMONG MEN!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT, MASAYA!?
Really
Eh
IT'S A GOOD THING!

A-H
NOW HERE'S YOUR PRIZE!
SAY AAH— ONCE MORE!
AAH
SAY AAH!
AH!
THAT'S RIGHT, LET'S CHECK YOUR GUMS
OH, GREAT JOB! THEY'RE BRUSHED CLEAN!
YEAH?

WHAT WAS THAT...?
GULP...
SQUIRT
MILK!
THERE REALLY IS STRAWBERRY MILK!
OKAY, SEEYA~
poof
I DECIDED TO BRUSH MY TEETH.
THE NEXT MORNING
...
KUMA TOOTHPASTE
strawberry

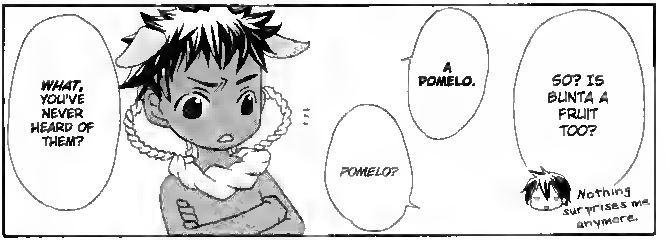
REALLY WAS A DREAM, HUH?
GUESS SO
WELL...
SO THE STRAWBERRY BUNNY FROM YESTERDAY...
silence...
Pop

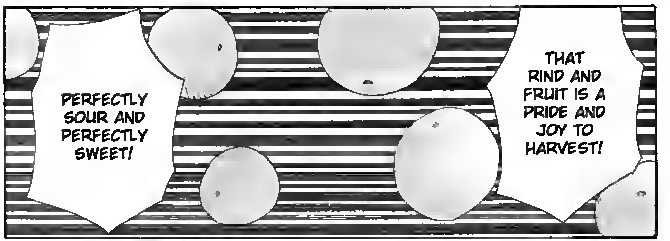
munch
munch
EVEN THOUGH HE WAS A STRANGE CREATURE,

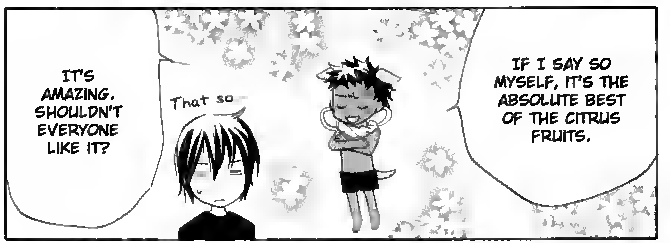
STRAWBERRY
STRAWBERRY
STRAWBERRY
?
I'm going to wind up eating them all.
MASAYA SURE IS LATE.
WE WERE STRAWBERRY FRIENDS...
STRAWBERRY CONCERTO / END

ICHIGO,
WANT A SNOW CONE?
SURE!
HUH?
WE'RE OUT OF STRAW-BERRY SYRUP.
NO WAY..
THERE'S ONLY BLUE HAWAII LEFT..
BLUE HAWAI...
.....
OH WELL...
THAT ONE BARELY TASTES LIKE STRAW-BERRY..
.....

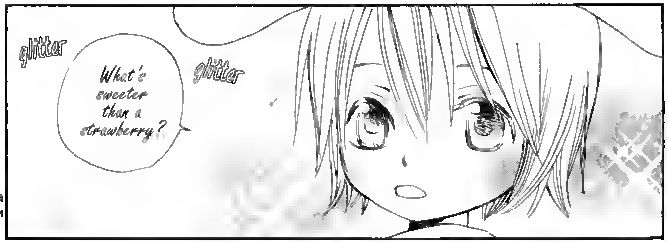
OKAY.
pluck
We'll have to make due with blue Hawaii today
NEXT TIME I'LL BUY SOME STRAWBERRY IN ADVANCE
wiggle
I'M BUNTA, FROM WAY DOWN SOUTH IN TOSA!
hey!
Tosa Breed
NOW THERE'S ANOTHER WEIRDO
Hawaii's "southern" = Tosa huh That's stretching it...
FWIP!
NICE TO MEET YOU!


WHAT, YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF THEM?
POMELO?
A POMELO.
SO? IS BUNTA A FRUIT TOO?
Nothing surprises me anymore.


PERFECTLY SOUR AND PERFECTLY SWEET!
THAT RIND AND FRUIT IS A PRIDE AND JOY TO HARVEST!


IT'S AMAZING. SHOULDN'T EVERYONE LIKE IT?
That so
IF I SAY SO MYSELF, IT'S THE ABSOLUTE BEST OF THE CITRUS FRUITS.

THEIR ONLY SELLING POINT IS THAT THEY'RE RED AND CUTE. THEY'RE NOTHING SPECIAL.
Heh!
STRAW-BERRIES?
HOW ABOUT STRAW-BERRIES?

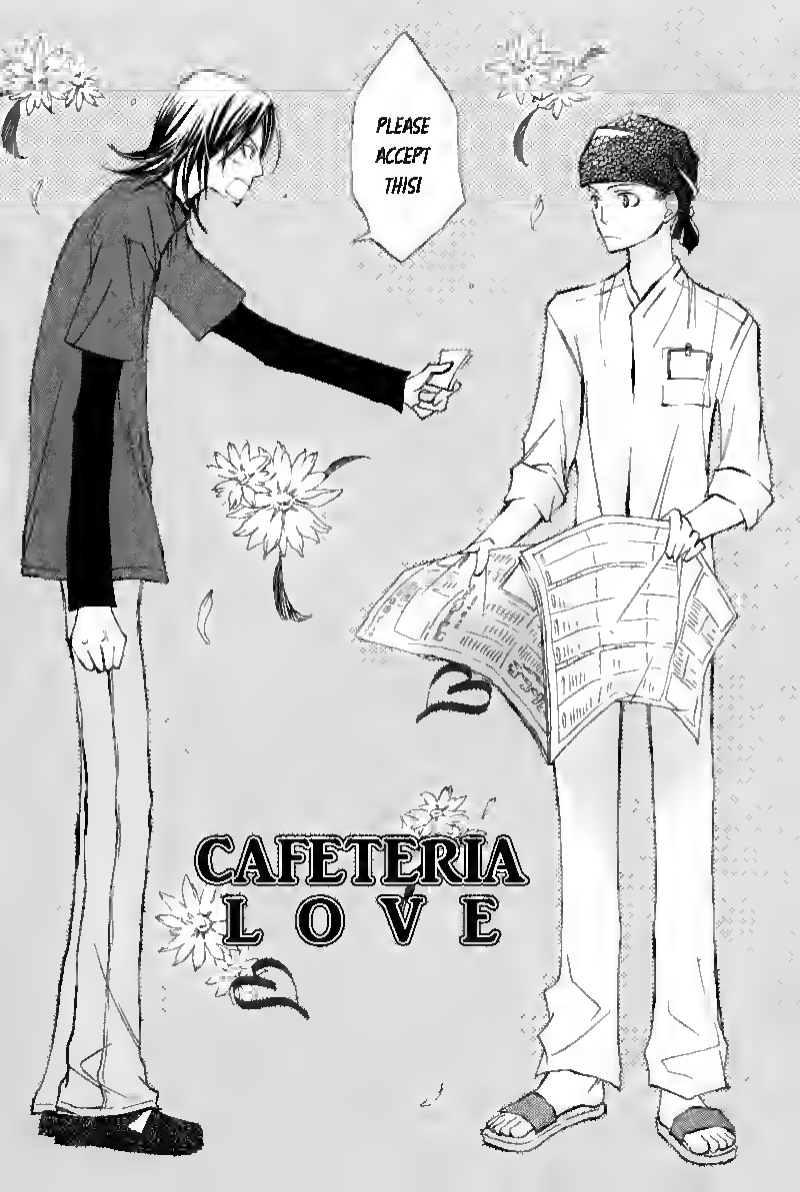

glitter
What's sweeter than a strawberry?
glitter

.....!!!

AND SO I GAINED ANOTHER FREE-LOADER.
...
IN THAT CASE, I'LL ALSO IMPOSE ON YOU STARTING TODAY!
YOU LIVE HERE!?
You listening?
Yeah.
N...
NO, NO, I'VE DECIDED! STRAWBERRIES TASTE BETTER!

END

2
CAFETERIA LOVE
2
clack
MY FRIENDS SAY...
HE'S LIKE AN OLD MAN.
THE GUY I LIKE ACTS LIKE AN OLDER GUY,
WORKS AT THE CAFETERIA, AND TIES A TOWEL AROUND HIS HEAD.
stalk
CAFETERIA 1
stalk
stalk
rustle
OGAWA.
I'VE BEEN PASSING THROUGH THE CAFETERIA WITH OGAWA FOR TWO MONTHS,
AND NOW I'M GOING TO MAKE MY MOVE!

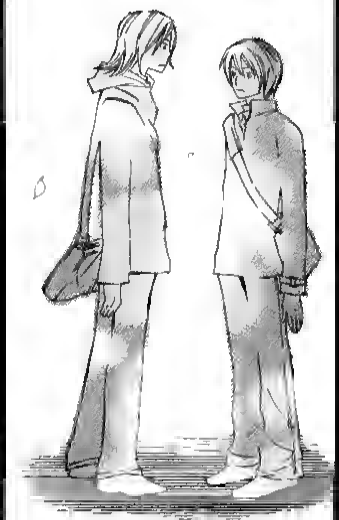

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS!
CAFETERIA LOVE

Sejima Yuuya
090-38
IS THIS A MEAL TICKET?
Or am I mistaken?
I... IT IS ...
MY NAME, NUMBER, AND EMAIL!
—...?
crinkle
IF YOU WANT...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO OUT WITH ME...?
—... YEAH, SO...
slide

WHERE IS YOUR MEAL TICKET?
HE IGNORED IT...!
I'LL GO BUY ONE
Got it
OGAWA, YOU'RE WEARING THAT TOWEL AGAIN
WHY NOT WEAR A HAT?
QUIET, YOU
Your ticket
Just hand over
A CAP WOULD ALSO KEEP MY HAIR COVERED BUT STILL
Right?
THAT'S RIGHT,
NO ONE SEES HIM WITH-OUT IT ON.
HMM.

CAFETERIA NOTICE
THE CAFETERIA'S STILL CLOSED...?
IT WAS CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS DURING SPRING BREAK...
I'm hungry
THE FIRST TIME I MET HIM...
EXCUSE ME.
crunch
WAS IN APRIL, WHEN THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS WERE BLOOMING
ARE YOU A STUDENT HERE?
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE CAFETERIA IS?

IT WAS THE DAY AFTER THE SCHOOL ENTRANCE CEREMONY.



IT OPENS NEXT WEEK
STOP BY FOR LUNCH
NEXT WEEK
SINCE HE TOLD ME TO STOP BY
DOES THAT MEAN HE WORKS HERE ?
BUT THERE'S NO ONE LIKE HIM HERE...
turn
turn
NEXT.

I THOUGHT I'D MEET HIM HERE.
NEXT
I SAID NEXT!! DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME!?
SHOCK
S SORRY
HERE
THANKS

AH!
IT'S HIM...!!
I DIDN'T THINK HE'D HAVE SUCH A SHARP TONGUE,
OR WEAR THAT TOWEL AROUND HIS HEAD 24/7
BUT...
I DON'T THINK THAT THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE...
beep
clack

WHO KNOW HE'S SO CUTE WITH THE TOWEL OFF
BUT...
I DON'T MIND IF I'M THE ONLY ONE
YOU HAVE A MEAL TICKET?
Ah! YES!
UM, AND...
WHOA, YUUYA, YOU GOT MEAL B?
About earlier
IT IS YUUYA, AFTER ALL!
YOU'VE GOTTA BE LOADED!
Meal Set B = 550 yen (expensive)
THANK YOU!
twip
SURE, B IT IS.
click
GUYS ...!!

AH...
hahaha
WE'LL SPLIT IT IN THIRDS!
dash
NOW HOLD IT, YOU GUYS!
—HEY
HEY, LOOK
HE'S CUTE WHEN HE SMILES
EVEN WITH THE TOWEL
HUH?
AH!?
your half
My half,
IS IT OKAY TO LEAVE THEM ALONE?
THEY'LL EAT IT ALL
SURE, HERE
YOUR PORTION OF CARROTS

I DON'T LIKE CARROTS,
OR SALAD,
OR BOILED FOOD IN GENERAL
HUH-?
YOU'RE REALLY PICKY, YUUYA
SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO EAT?
flip
YEAH,
I'LL MAKE DO WITH RICE AND MEAT
OGAWA!
YOU CAN TAKE A BREAK!
Ah, SURE
SORRY,
I JUST REMEMBERED I HAVE SOMETHING TO DO
YUUYA?
clack

YES?
slide
LOCKERS
Phew
click
UM...
WELL...
...OH,
WHAT'S WRONG?

I'M ABOUT TO EAT, TOO
WANT TO EAT TO-GETHER?
S...
SURE...
—UM...

...DID YOU REMEMBER ME?
...YEAH.
AND...
YOU TOLD ME WHERE THE CAFETERIA WAS
YOU STARE AT ME LIKE THAT EVERY DAY, I COULDN'T FORGET YOU IF I WANTED TO.
DONG
SIP
IF YOU WANTED TO?

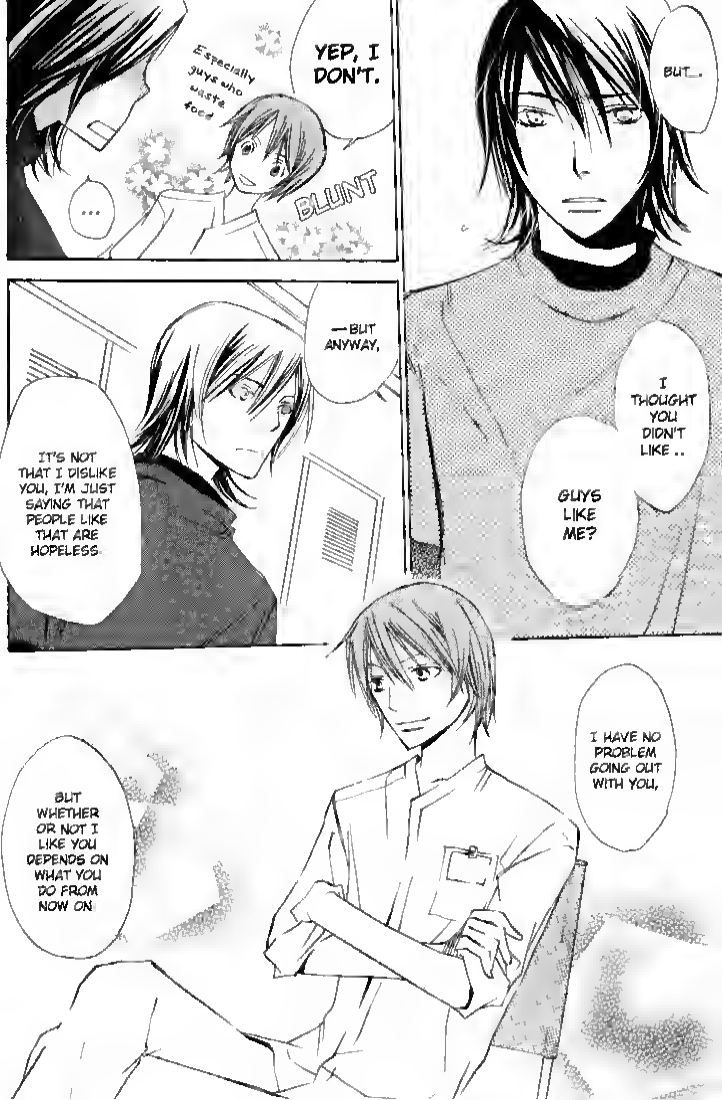
HE REMEMBERED ME...
...REALLY?
I WAS RUNNING LATE FOR MY MEETING, AND YOU HELPED ME GET THERE FASTER.
IT WAS MY FIRST DAY ON THE JOB.
DID YOU MAKE YOUR LUNCH AT HOME?
HM? YEAH
I AM A COOK
...BUT HAVEN'T YOU JUST BEEN HANDLING THE REGISTER?
I'M THE NEW GUY, SO THEY'LL ONLY LET ME DO THE PREP WORK FOR NOW...
BY THE WAY...

THE BOILED CARROTS, POTATOES, CABBAGE SALAD, AND CUT TOMATOES THAT YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T LIKE AND GAVE TO YOUR FRIENDS...
WERE ALL THINGS I MADE.
...I'LL...
I'LL GO GET THEM BACK!!
THEY'VE ALREADY EATEN THEM
Running after them is pointless
Sip
Ah, nice
DASH

IN ANY CASE, IF YOU DON'T EAT PROPERLY AT HOME OR WHEREVER, YOU'LL MAKE YOUR MOM WORRY, RIGHT?
BULL'S EYE
nnn
I'M SORRY
clack
—I...
DON'T LIKE GUYS WHO JUST TOSS FOOD ASIDE WITHOUT THINKING OF THE FEELINGS OF THE PERSON WHO MADE IT

IF YOU WANT TO GO OUT WITH ME, YOU'LL HAVE TO FIX THAT FIRST
SO. .

EH!?
YOU'LL GO OUT WITH ME!?
I TOLD YOU THAT WHEN YOU GAVE ME THE PAPER.
?
HUH-!?
IF YOU WANT...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO OUT WITH ME...
YEAH ...
SO ...
WHERE'S YOUR MEAL TICKET?
...I THOUGHT
THAT WAS JUST YOU BRUSHING IT OFF
Oh?

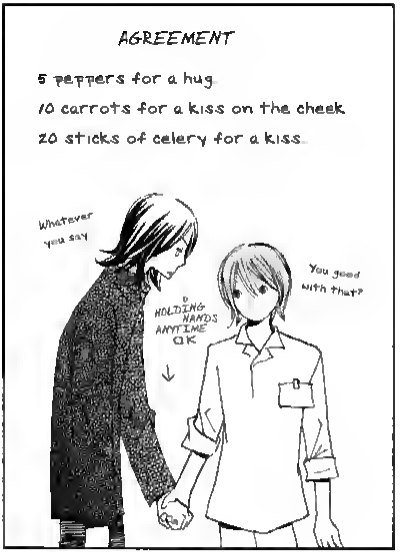

BUT...
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE ..
GUYS LIKE ME?
—BUT ANYWAY,
IT'S NOT THAT I DISLIKE YOU, I'M JUST SAYING THAT PEOPLE LIKE THAT ARE HOPELESS.
I HAVE NO PROBLEM GOING OUT WITH YOU,
BUT WHETHER OR NOT I LIKE YOU DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU DO FROM NOW ON.
...
Especially guys who waste food
YEP, I DON'T.
BLUNT

I—
I'LL...
DO MY BEST!
.....!!
EH?
BDAP
I DO LIKE THAT YOU'RE SO STRAIGHT-FORWARD LIKE THAT
HOW?
H—
blush
HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THAT?
YOU'RE SIMPLE AND HONEST.
THOSE GUYS THAT WERE WITH YOU BEFORE ARE ALWAYS PULLING PRANKS AND TRICKING YOU.
EVERY DAY...

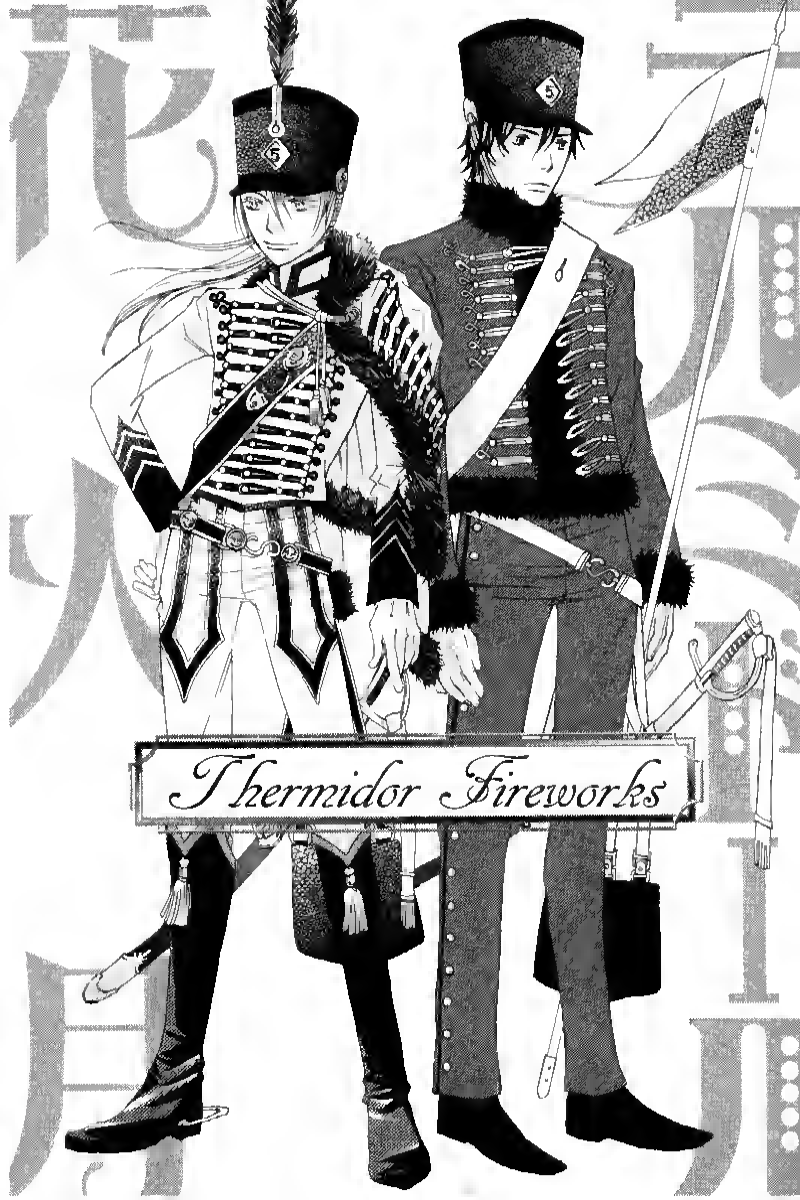
WITH YOUR EARNEST GAZE...
EVERY DAY...
...WHEN YOU WATCH ME FOR TWO MONTHS, I'M BOUND TO NOTICE.
EVERY DAY...
OGAWA.
HM?
YOU REALLY AREN'T VERY OBSERVANT, BUT THEN YOU ARE STILL A STUDENT.
AGE 19
AGE 23

...WHEN YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT, OGAWA, I CAN'T CONTROL HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU.
I STILL DON'T KNOW...
IF HE'LL GROW TO LIKE ME, BUT...
FOR NOW I'LL BE LESS PICKY ABOUT WHAT I EAT.
...GROSS...

CAFETERIA LOVE / END


AGREEMENT
5 peppers for a hug
10 carrots for a kiss on the cheek
20 sticks of celery for a kiss
Whatever you say
HOLDING HANDS ANYTIME OK
You good with that?

1
The
Young
Officer


花火
Thermidor Fireworks

BO
OM
BOOM
DADDY!
IS THAT FIRE-WORKS?
I LOVE FIRE-WORKS!
THEY'RE SO PRETTY
THEY'RE AMAZ-ING!
pat
WHOA!
BOOM
BOOM
THAT SOUND
I LIKE WATCHING THEM, BUT...
WELL...
HOW ABOUT YOU, DADDY?

EVER SINCE TEN YEARS AGO, I HAVEN'T LIKED IT ..
WHAT?
CLAUDE LOST?
YES,
TO A NOVICE FROM THE 8TH PLATOON
shake shake shake
HE'S REALLY GOT TALENT,
BUT FOR SOME REASON HE FREEZES WHEN IT MATTERS ...
CLAUDE!!
CLAUDE!!
CLAUDE CHAR-TRAND!
WHERE'D YOU GO!?

CLAUDE!
YOU CALLED FOR ME, LIEUTENANT SERRURIER.
I HEARD YOU LOST THE MATCH YESTERDAY WITH THAT SOLDIER FROM THE 8TH PLATOON. IS THAT TRUE!?
EH?
YEAH dm...
YOU
OF ALL THINGS, YOU LOSE TO D'ORLEANS' 8TH PLATOON!!
idiot !!
S-
SORRY
HEAD, 5TH PLATOON
HEAD, 8TH PLATOON
LIKE CATS AND DOGS
Idiot, that word's taboo!!
YOU HAVE SUCH A CUTE, GIRLY FACE, YOU'LL RUIN.
MPH
SHNK
IF YOU GET THAT MAD, YOU'RE GOING TO GET WRINKLES.
NOW, NOW, LIEUTENANT...
That's right

WHAT VIGOR, LIEUTENANT SERRURIER.
MY, MY, LOOK AT THIS...
EEP
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU REALLY WANT TO BE RUST ON MY BLADE
Kashnk
YOU TWO
MY PLATOON COMPLETELY DOMINATED THE SERRURIER SOLDIERS IN THE BOUTS YESTERDAY, DIDN'T THEY?
COM-MANDER D'ORLEANS
I heard that "yuh", lieutenant
GAH
YOU SHOULD ALWAYS BE AWARE THAT SOLDIERS LOOK TO THEIR COMMANDING OFFICER FOR GUIDANCE—
twich
M-P-
Ha Ha Ha
WELL, CONSIDERING YOU LOOK SO MUCH LIKE A GIRL,
THE SOLDIERS UNDER YOUR COMMAND MUST HAVE PRETTY LOW MORALE.

THR
UST
—
PLEASE
EXCUSE
ME.

THERE WAS A POISONOUS SPIDER BEHIND YOU.
WHERE EXACTLY WAS THAT POISONOUS SPIDER?
ha ha YOU NOTICED?
poison spider
poison spider
HATES BUGS
A poison spider
2 really
BDMP BDMP BDMP
Smile

...DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT D'ORLEANS SAYS.
I KNOW FULL WELL THAT I LOOK LIKE A GIRL.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, LIEUTENANT?
YOU'RE THE MOST MANLY GUY IN THE WHOLE PLATOON
ANYONE WHO JUDGES YOU BY YOUR OUTWARD APPEARANCE ALONE CAN'T SEE THE REAL YOU.
IF HE KNEW ABOUT YOUR INNER STRENGTH, HE'D NEVER SAY ANYTHING LIKE THAT
.....

SURE?
BLUSH
L—
LET'S JUST FORGET ABOUT THAT, CLAUDE!
THAT SWORD SKILL YOU JUST DEMONSTRATED IS QUITE A BIT DIFFERENT FROM YOUR USUAL ABILITIES AT PRACTICE.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
—MY
HEART IS JUST TOO WEAK.
...?
HEY,
HAVE YOU SEEN CLAUDE?

Hun?
fall
CLAUDE GOT HURT DURING PRACTICE AGAIN, AND WENT TO THE MEDIC TENT.
He really is hopeless
wind
LIEUTENANT SERRURIER
LET ME SEE THAT
IT REALLY IS HARD WRAPPING IT WITH ONE HAND—
YEAH
slide

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU TOLD ME.
SAYING YOUR HEART IS WEAK...
IN OTHER WORDS,
YOU MEAN YOU HAVE THE SKILL, BUT YOU DON'T LIKE FIGHTING...
AND SINCE YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE, YOU WAIT FOR AN OPENING TO LET YOURSELF GET HURT. IS THAT IT?
I DON'T REALLY KNOW IF I HAVE ANY SKILL, BUT...
YEAH, THAT'S ABOUT RIGHT
THEN WHY DID YOU JOIN THE ARMY?
SURELY YOU KNEW THAT WHEN YOU JOINED YOU'D BE ASKED TO DO THINGS YOU DIDN'T LIKE

YOU'RE MARRIED!?
DAUGHTER!?
YES
...I WANTED TO SHOW MY DAUGHTER FIREWORKS,
SO I ENLISTED.
..BUT, FIREWORKS?
YOU CAN SEE FIREWORKS ANYWHERE
SHE DIDN'T HAVE ANY RELATIVES SO RIGHT NOW MY DAUGHTER IS LIVING WITH MY UNCLE.
.. THOUGH I LOST MY WIFE
NO.
UNFORTUNATELY, WHERE I LIVE NOW IS SO FAR OUT IN THE COUNTRY THAT A PYROTECHNICIAN HAS NEVER VISITED

SEEING FIREWORKS WAS ORIGINALLY MY WIFE'S DREAM
THIS IS ALSO FOR HER SAKE, SINCE SHE DIED BEFORE SHE COULD FULFILL THAT DREAM
I'M PLANNING TO USE MY EARNINGS IN THE ARMY TO MOVE MY DAUGHTER AND I TO A CITY WHERE YOU CAN SEE FIREWORKS
...I SEE
SO YOU JOINED THE ARMY SINCE IT'S THE QUICKEST WAY TO SAVE UP
YES, BUT...
WHEN I MADE UP MY MIND TO ENLIST, I'D ALREADY MANAGED TO AVOID ALL THE WARS UP TO NOW.
IT'S EMBARRASSING FOR ME TO SAY THIS, BUT I'M STILL SCARED...
OF FIGHTING SOMEONE JUST AN ARM'S LENGTH AWAY
I'M JUST... A COWARD.

YOU...
ARE AWARE OF YOUR OWN STRENGTH,
AND YOU HOLD IT IN CHECK SO YOU DON'T HURT YOUR OPPONENT
I WOULDN'T CALL ANYONE WHO UNDERSTANDS HIMSELF TO THAT EXTENT A COWARD.
THAT IS A GREAT KINDNESS.

IT'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF,
SO DON'T LOOK SO DOWN
BE PROUD OF IT!
YES, SIR.

How old are you?
25
IT'S PRETTY SAD THAT I'M STILL SINGLE AND YOU'VE GOT A KID, EVEN THOUGH I'M OLDER THAN YOU
...
BUT ...
DONE!
OWW
SLAP
Ow
BUT I'M SURE YOU'RE POPULAR WITH THE LADIES, LIEUTENANT SERRURIER
ha ha
HARDLY.
AT THIS RATE I'LL BE A BACHELOR MY WHOLE LIFE.

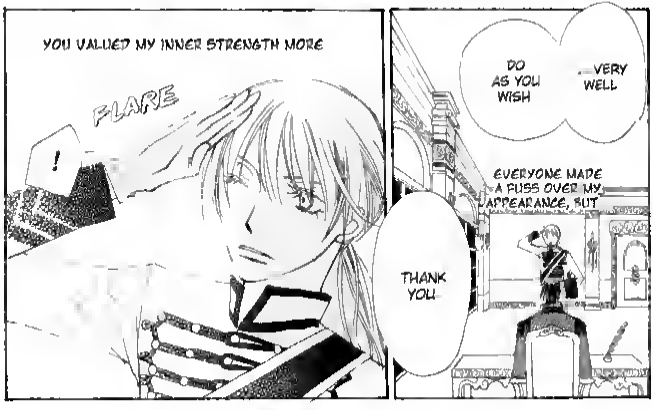
I'M SURE
IT'LL BE FUN.
THEN IF THAT HAPPENS,
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIVE WITH MY DAUGHTER AND I, AND WE COULD ALL WATCH THE FIREWORKS TOGETHER?

...DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH QUIT JOKING AROUND
SEVERAL DAYS LATER, THE ORDER CAME...
TO TRANSFER CLAUDE TO AN ARTILLERY UNIT.
boom
...THE ARTILLERY FIRE HAS BEEN NON-STOP FOR A WHILE NOW
boom boom
YES, SIR.
IT SEEMS THAT THE ARTILLERY UNIT DEPLOYED TO THE EAST HAS BEEN ENGAGED.
IT'S OUR ENEMY'S LAST STAND, SO I SUPPOSE DESPERATION IS GIVING THEM STRENGTH.

AN ARTILLERY UNIT
boom
boom
boom
IT'S THE SAME
THIS SOUND
SIR?
WHAT IS?
IS THE SAME AS FIREWORKS GOING OFF
boom
IT'S NOTHING

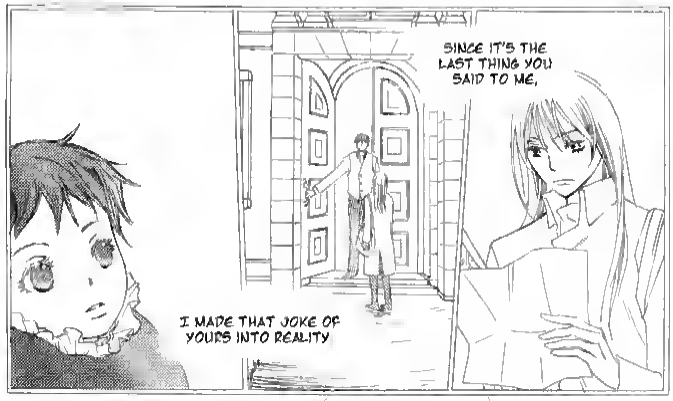
THAT EVENING, THE ENEMY SURRENDERED UNCONDITIONALLY AND THE WAR WAS OVER
I LATER FOUND CLAUDE'S NAME ON A LIST OF ARTILLERY SOLDIERS WHO HAD DIED IN BATTLE IN THE EAST THAT DAY
HE HAD BEEN HIT BY ARTILLERY FIRE.
THAT DAY, HE HAD LOST HIS LIFE IN ONE OF THOSE BOMBARDMENTS I'D HEARD.
boom
boom
I WONDER IF . CLAUDE'S OKAY
YOU'RE RETIR-ING?

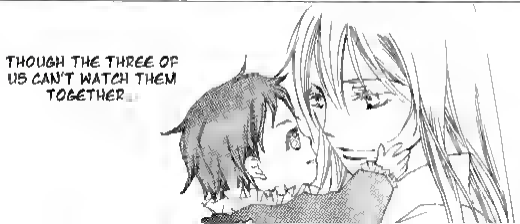
YES.
WITH THE WAR OVER, YOU DON'T NEED SOLDIERS
ALSO...
THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO DO


YOU VALUED MY INNER STRENGTH MORE
FLARE
!
DO AS YOU WISH
...VERY WELL
EVERYONE MADE A FUSS OVER MY APPEARANCE, BUT
THANK YOU.

HOW HAPPY THAT MADE ME BACK THEN?

YOUR PROPOSAL...
I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIVE WITH MY DAUGHTER AND I, AND WE COULD ALL WATCH THE FIREWORKS TOGETHER?
CLAUDE.
STILL MAKES ME LAUGH AT ITS AUDACITY, BUT...


SINCE IT'S THE LAST THING YOU SAID TO ME,
I MADE THAT JOKE OF YOURS INTO REALITY


THOUGH THE THREE OF US CAN'T WATCH THEM TOGETHER...

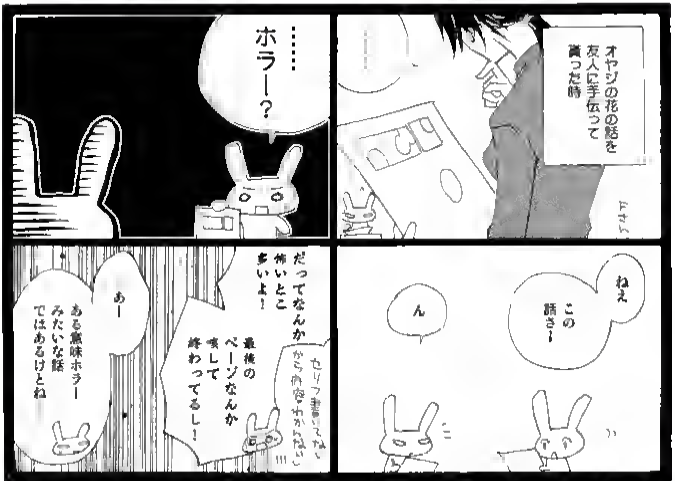
AND IT'S SUCH A HUGE LOSS——
BOOM

IS THAT FIREWORKS?
HEY, DADDY
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS ASK IF IT'S FIREWORKS?
TUG TUG
FIREWORKS ARE FIREWORKS WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE?
IT'S THE SAME SOUND
SOUND?
boom
YES.
THE SAME AS THE SOUND THAT SNATCHED AWAY SOMEONE DEAR TO YOU, A FRIEND OF MINE.

THERMIDOR FIREWORKS / END

巻末雑記

はじめまして
藤川桐子です
この度はこの本を
手にとっていただき
ありがとうございます
結構前の作品
ばかりなので
平顔の至りで
ございます
仕事してると
見落としに気づく
(うちのネコ20)
ちゃんと
やってるよ…
今回我ながら
ありえない枚数
描き下ろしました
元々は普通の
話までもBL
扱いにして収録
そういう話に
しますが…これ
いいんでしょか
全然
いいです!
当時
担当様 編集様 特集 組まれる なった気が
原稿やってると
いろんな人に
助けられてると
実感します
特に地方の
友人による
方言の翻訳
ビフォー
アフター
文旦だぜ!
文旦じゃき!
一気に編集様のようにハイ
これからも
細々と頑張り
ます
どうも
ありがとう
ございました
文旦
大好き!
おまけ



!!つえ太先生にないできず 担当のエ🐰さん フロックス売るてが森さん いろいろありがとうございました
手伝ってくれた各員さん たかの M ちゃんにも ありがてう！ N 書さんも ありがとうございました!!

◆初出一覧◆

夏、君が咲く。	／MAGAZINE BE×BOY（'04年８月号）掲載 ※単行本収録にあたり大幅に加筆修正しました。
華の言霊	／描き下ろし
思案する花屋	／描き下ろし
いちごコンチェルト	／MAGAZINE ZERO（'04年vol.41）掲載
いちごコンチェルト４コマ	／描き下ろし
学食的恋愛	／BasiL&co vol.3（'05年４月文苑堂 刊）掲載
テルミドール花火月	／MAGAZINE ZERO（'04年vol.43）掲載
あとがき	／描き下ろし